

Translation

PATENT COOPERATION TREATY

PCT

INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

(Chapter II of the Patent Cooperation Treaty)

(PCT Article 36 and Rule 70)

Applicant's or agent's file reference	FOR FURTHER ACTION	See Form PCT/IPEA/416
International application No. PCT/FR2004/050030	International filing date (day/month/year) 26.01.2004	Priority date (day/month/year) 28.01.2003
International Patent Classification (IPC) or national classification and IPC H05H1/22, G21B1/00		
Applicant COMMISSARIAT A L'ENERGIE ATOMIQUE et al.		

1. This report is the international preliminary examination report, established by this International Preliminary Examining Authority under Article 35 and transmitted to the applicant according to Article 36.

2. This REPORT consists of a total of 4 sheets, including this cover sheet.

3. This report is also accompanied by ANNEXES, comprising:

a. ☐ (sent to the applicant and to the International Bureau) a total of \_\_\_\_\_ sheets, as follows:

☐ sheets of the description, claims and/or drawings which have been amended and are the basis for this report and/or sheets containing rectifications authorized by this Authority (see Rule 70.16 and Section 607 of the Administrative Instructions).

☐ sheets which supersede earlier sheets, but which this Authority considers contain an amendment that goes beyond the disclosure in the international application as filed, as indicated in item 4 of Box No. I and the Supplemental Box.

b. ☐ (sent to the International Bureau only) a total of (indicate type and number of electronic carrier(s)) \_\_\_\_\_, containing a sequence listing and/or tables related thereto, in computer readable form only, as indicated in the Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing (see Section 802 of the Administrative Instructions).

4. This report contains indications relating to the following items:

<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. I	Basis of the report
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. II	Priority
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. III	Non-establishment of opinion with regard to novelty, inventive step and industrial applicability
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. IV	Lack of unity of invention
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. V	Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement
<input checked="" type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VI	Certain documents cited
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VII	Certain defects in the international application
<input type="checkbox"/>	Box No. VIII	Certain observations on the international application

Date of submission of the demand	Date of completion of this report
Name and mailing address of the IPEA/EP	Authorized officer
Facsimile No.	Telephone No.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/FR2004/050030

Box No. I

Basis of the report

1. With regard to the **language**, this report is based on the international application in the language in which it was filed, unless otherwise indicated under this item.

- ☐ This report is based on translations from the original language into the following language \_\_\_\_\_, which is the language of a translation furnished for the purposes of:
- ☐ international search (Rule 12.3 and 23.1(b))
  - ☐ publication of the international application (Rule 12.4)
  - ☐ international preliminary examination (Rule 55.2 and/or 55.3)

2. With regard to the **elements** of the international application, this report is based on *(replacement sheets which have been furnished to the receiving Office in response to an invitation under Article 14 are referred to in this report as "originally filed" and are not annexed to this report)*:

- ☐ the international application as originally filed/furnished
- ☒ the description:

pages 1-30 \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished

pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_

pages\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_

- ☒ the claims:
- nos. 1-17 \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished

nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ as amended (together with any statement) under Article 19

nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_

nos.\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_

- ☒ the drawings:
- sheets 1/6-6/6 \_\_\_\_\_ as originally filed/furnished

sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_

sheets\* \_\_\_\_\_ received by this Authority on \_\_\_\_\_

- ☐ a sequence listing and/or any related table(s) – see Supplemental Box Relating to Sequence Listing.

3. ☐ The amendments have resulted in the cancellation of:

☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_

☐ the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_

☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

4. ☐ This report has been established as if (some of) the amendments annexed to this report and listed below had not been made, since they have been considered to go beyond the disclosure as filed, as indicated in the Supplemental Box (Rule 70.2(c)).

☐ the description, pages \_\_\_\_\_

☐ the claims, nos. \_\_\_\_\_

☐ the drawings, sheets/figs \_\_\_\_\_

☐ the sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

☐ any table(s) related to sequence listing (*specify*): \_\_\_\_\_

\* If item 4 applies, some or all of those sheets may be marked "superseded."

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/FR2004/050030

**Box No. V Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement****1. Statement**

Novelty (N)	Claims	1-17	YES
	Claims		NO
Inventive step (IS)	Claims	1-17	YES
	Claims		NO
Industrial applicability (IA)	Claims	1-17	YES
	Claims		NO

**2. Citations and explanations (Rule 70.7)**

1. In the present report, reference is made to the following document:  
D1: XP8026789
2. D1, which is considered to be the most relevant prior art, describes (with reference to figure 6 of said document):  
a device for injecting a pulsed supersonic gas flow into an enclosure, comprising a chamber inside which the gas to be injected is pressurised and a supersonic gas discharge nozzle capable of communicating with the chamber via an opening provided therein. D1 does not describe a valve that seals said opening and is actuated percussively by a free piston provided in the chamber for this purpose.  
The subject matter of claim 1 is therefore novel (PCT Article 33(2)).
3. The problem addressed by the present invention can be considered to be that of injecting rapid, concentrated puffs of gas into a plasma, so that the gas penetrates deeply into the core of the

Box No. V

Reasoned statement under Article 35(2) with regard to novelty, inventive step or industrial applicability; citations and explanations supporting such statement

plasma before being entirely ionised. In the prior art, the central areas of the plasma could not be reached using piezoelectric valves, since the gas was already ionised a few centimetres from the point of injection. The proportion of gas that reached the central areas of the plasma was limited to 10 to 20 %.

The solution proposed by the present invention, which consists in using an arrangement comprising a supersonic gas discharge nozzle, enables around 50 to 60 % efficiency to be achieved, with costs comparable to those of the prior art. Since it is neither known from nor made obvious by the prior art documents, this solution is considered to involve an inventive step (PCT Article 33(3)).

4. Claims 2 to 17 are dependent on claim 1 and thus also comply, as such, with the PCT requirements of novelty and inventive step.

## INTERNATIONAL PRELIMINARY REPORT ON PATENTABILITY

International application No.

PCT/FR2004/050030

Box No. VI

Certain documents cited

## 1. Certain published documents (Rule 70.10)

Application No.  
Patent No.Publication date  
(day/month/year)Filing date  
(day/month/year)Priority date (valid claim)  
(day/month/year)

## 2. Non-written disclosures (Rule 70.9)

Kind of non-written disclosure

Date of non-written disclosure  
(day/month/year)Date of written disclosure  
referring to non-written disclosure  
(day/month/year)